

---

# Airports and Seaports

The Bay Area has three major airports (San Francisco International Airport, Oakland International Airport and San Jose International Airport) and four major seaports (San Francisco, Oakland, Redwood City and Richmond). Airports and seaports are included in this report because

they serve as regional gateways and generate considerable ground traffic by cars, trucks and rail. Statistics on air passengers and air and marine cargo are presented to track changes in traffic generated by airports and seaports.

Air Passenger and Cargo Volumes Rebound in 2004, Reversing Three-Year Slide; Both Measures Still Below 2000 Levels

- Passenger and freight activity at Bay Area airports increased in 2004 for the first time since 2000. The number of air passengers increased 8 percent from 2003 and the volume of air cargo increased 3 percent. However, regionwide, air cargo and air passenger volumes still have not returned to the levels reached in 2000, prior to the dot-com economic implosion and the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.
- San Francisco International Airport — which processes more than half the region’s air passengers and which had been hit hardest by the dropoff in volume — experienced the biggest rebound in 2004, with the number of air passengers increasing by 12 percent. At San Jose International Airport, air passenger volumes climbed 4 percent after several years of decline. Passenger volumes remain well below 2000 levels at both airports.

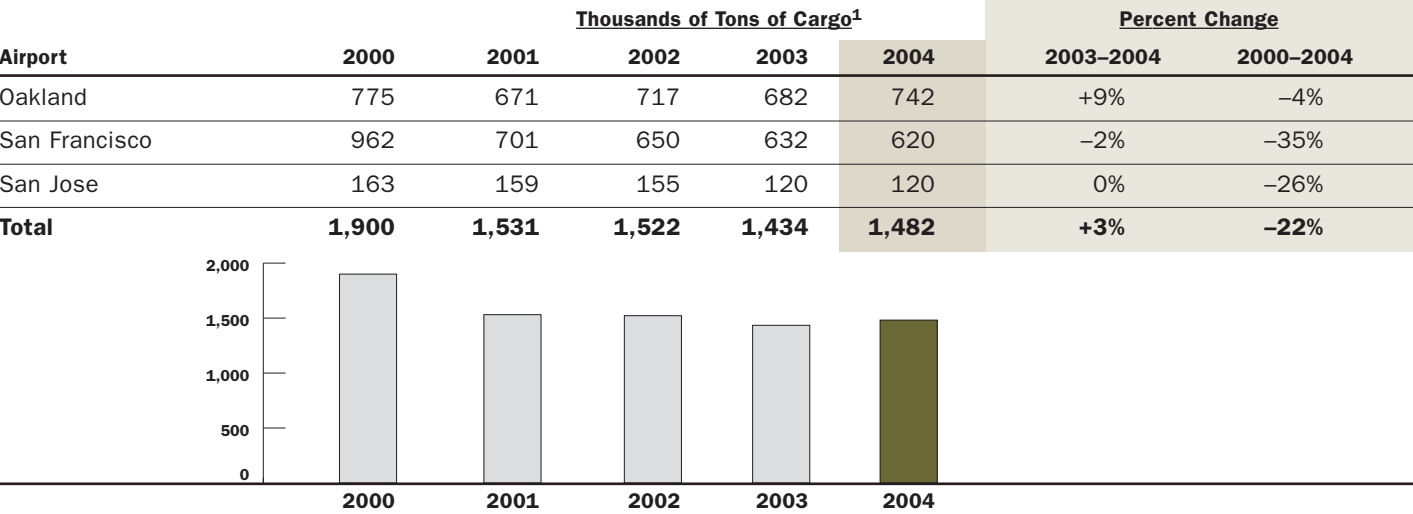
Air Passengers at Bay Area Airports, 2000–2004



Sources: Port of Oakland, San Jose International Airport, San Francisco International Airport.  
<sup>1</sup>Measured by enplanements and deplanements.

- Oakland International Airport continued its well-established pattern of steady annual growth in the number of air passengers served. In 2004, the volume of air passengers increased by 600,000 at the East Bay airport, an increase of 4 percent over the year-earlier level. The cumulative growth since 2000 has been an impressive 33 percent, boosting Oakland International's share of the regional air passenger market from 17 percent in 2000 to 25 percent in 2004.
- Air cargo volume in 2004 increased a healthy 9 percent at Oakland International Airport — the only one of the three Bay Area airports to see an increase. The volume of cargo at San Jose International held steady at 120,000 tons, while San Francisco International witnessed a 2 percent decrease in air cargo tonnage. Overall, the 3 percent increase in regional air cargo volume was not as robust as the growth in air passenger traffic. And the 2004 total (1.5 million tons) remains 22 percent below 2000 levels.

Air Cargo at Bay Area Airports, 2000–2004



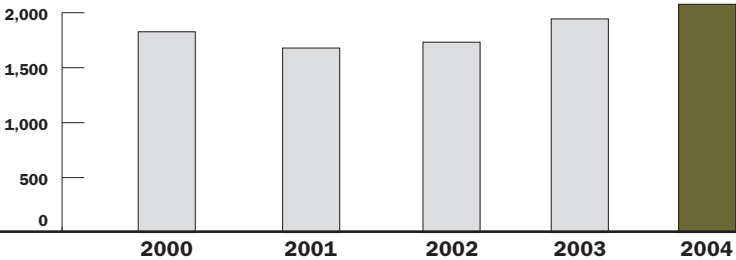
Sources: Port of Oakland, San Jose International Airport, San Francisco International Airport  
<sup>1</sup>One ton = 2,000 pounds

# Bay Area Ports See Healthy Growth in Both Container and Bulk Cargo Sectors

- The volume of cargo handled by the Bay Area’s four largest seaports increased by healthy margins in 2004. The amount of container cargo shipped through the ports of Oakland and San Francisco grew by 7 percent, and the volume of bulk freight passing through these ports, plus the ports of Richmond and Redwood City, jumped 23 percent. *(Note: Bulk marine cargo also passes through the Port of Benicia, but in substantially smaller volumes than at the four largest ports. This report does not include data from the Port of Benicia.)*
- In the Bay Area, container cargo trends are driven by the Port of Oakland, which accounts for nearly 99 percent of container cargo in the region. In 2004, the number of containers processed by the Oakland port increased 6 percent, passing the 2 million mark for the first time. Since 2000, container traffic at the Port of Oakland has increased by 15 percent. Goods imported in containers include electronics, toys and cloth. Container exports include agriculture products, scrap metal, waste paper and electronics from the Silicon Valley.

Container Marine Cargo at Bay Area Seaports, 2000–2004

Seaport	Thousands of TEU <sup>1</sup> Containers					Percent Change	
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2003–2004	2000–2004
Oakland	1,777	1,644	1,708	1,923	2,045	+6%	+15%
San Francisco	50	35	24	21	32	+53%	–36%
Total	1,827	1,679	1,732	1,944	2,077	+7%	+14%



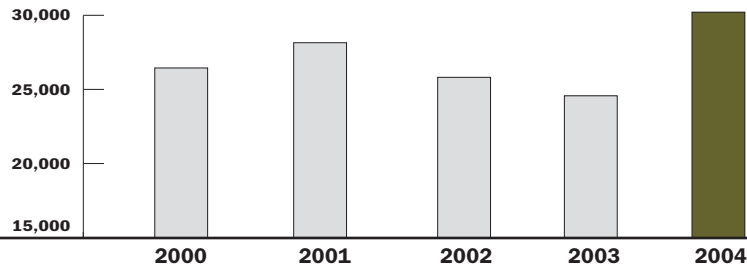
Sources: Ports of Oakland and San Francisco  
<sup>1</sup>TEU = Twenty-foot equivalent

- In contrast to container cargo, which has grown steadily since the double-whammy year (dot-com bust and September 11th terrorist attacks) of 2001, Bay Area bulk cargo suffered declines in both 2002 and 2003. In 2004, the volume of bulk cargo jumped by 23 percent, reversing this downward trend and climbing to the highest level of the last five years.
- The bump in bulk cargo volume was due largely to growth at the Port of Richmond, which handles roughly 80 percent of the region's bulk sea cargo. Bulk cargo shipments at the Port of Richmond increased 25 percent to over 25 million tons. As well, bulk cargo shipments

increased significantly (11 percent and 31 percent, respectively) at the ports of San Francisco and Redwood City. Only the Port of Oakland saw a decrease in volume, and this by only 1 percent. Over the five-year period from 2000 to 2004, the total amount of sea cargo shipped through the ports of Richmond, Redwood City, San Francisco and Oakland increased by 14 percent.

### Bulk Marine Cargo at Bay Area Seaports 2000–2004

Seaport	Thousands of Tons of Bulk Cargo					Percent Change	
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2003–2004	2000–2004
Richmond	22,541	24,185	21,977	20,269	25,313	+25%	+12%
Redwood City	1,102	1,124	1,016	1,509	1,977	+31%	+79%
San Francisco	942	925	1,379	1,364	1,518	+11%	+61%
Oakland	1,861	1,902	1,445	1,441	1,424	–1%	–23%
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,446</b>	<b>28,136</b>	<b>25,817</b>	<b>24,583</b>	<b>30,232</b>	<b>+23%</b>	<b>+14%</b>



Sources: Ports of Oakland, Redwood City, Richmond, San Francisco  
 Note: One ton = 2,000 pounds